

Claims

1. A method for reducing the cyanide levels in a mesotrione sample, said method comprising:
  - 5 (i) taking an aqueous solution of the mesotrione sample in an aqueous solvent,
  - (ii) adjusting the pH of said aqueous solution to a value of 9.5 or higher, and
  - (iii) crystallising the mesotrione out of solution.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the mesotrione sample has previously been isolated and is redissolved in an aqueous solvent.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the mesotrione sample has not previously been isolated and is already present as an aqueous solution in an aqueous solvent.
- 15 4. The method of claim 3, which further includes a distillation step.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the distillation step is carried out prior to adjusting the pH of the aqueous solution to a value of 9.5 or higher.
- 20 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the distillation step is carried out after adjusting the pH of the aqueous solution to a value of 9.5 or higher.
7. The method according to any one of claim 1 to 6, wherein the crystallisation step also includes a nitrogen sparging step.
- 25 8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the cyanide levels in the mesotrione sample are reduced to 150ppm or less.